

SLEW MAN FOR \$4, BOY OF EIGHTEEN BOASTS TO JURY

Price Enough, He Says, for
Murder of Victim He Nev-
er Saw Before.

Hired on the Street.

Gladly Took Pittance to Settle
Grudge of Spence, Ejected
From Larsen Flat.

Shuffled and pallid from years in prison, an eighteen-year-old boy sat in the witness chair beside Judge Malone in the Court of General Sessions today and told, coldly and with youthful swagger, how he had slain a man he had never seen before. The price of the assassination was \$4.

The murderer cast his shifty, beady eyes at Frederick Spence, who was on trial for murder, as he told his story. There was hatred in his eyes, engendered by the fact that he was charged and that he must serve twenty years in Sing Sing for manslaughter in the first degree. That is the sentence Judge Rosales will pronounce on the youth, Thomas Gannon, in January.

The wildest stories of Apache life in the "Avenue Boys" of Jack Zelig can hardly rival the story told by Thomas Gannon today to the jury today. His language was the vernacular of the east side, where slang and oath add expressiveness to speech.

TELLS HOW HE KILLED VICTIM FOR \$4.

"Yes, I killed this guy Chris (Christopher) Larsen," he said, "because Spence gave me \$4 to do it," he told the jury. "You see, it was this way. Spence, he was a barkeep in Third Avenue near Twenty-ninth street. He had a skirt, Mary Mackey, that he's been lovin' a long time. Mary threw him down and went to live with the Larsens. That was what caused the trouble."

Larsen, his wife and three-month-old baby lived in a top floor flat at No. 234 East Fortieth street. Larsen was head steeper for the Edison Company, a hard working, steady-going man. March 25 was Mary Mackey's birthday, and the Larsens gave her a party, to which all their friends were invited.

Spence was the only one omitted. When the festivities were at their height, Spence knocked on the door and demanded permission to see Miss Mackey. The girl appealed to her host, Larsen, who threw Spence down stairs. "Well," continued Gannon to the jury, "I was standin' on the corner near the house when Spence came along. He asked if I wanted to make a piece of change. I told him I did, if I didn't have to work too hard. He gives me the gun and tells me to go up to Larsen's flat and 'clean up that damned'—"

"I went up the steps and knocked at the door. Larsen comes out and I says to him: 'What's been the trouble up here with you and Spence?' Larsen tells me to mind my own business and takes a step toward me. Then I let him have it, and broke and ran. I didn't shoot him but once."

Once was enough, Larsen, shot through the heart, staggered back into the crowded flat and struggled toward the door where his child was sleeping. He fell across the tiny bed, his arms outstretched to his baby. The white-faced group gathered about him and turned him over. They thought he was only unconscious. Dr. Ivey, from Bellevue Hospital, declared he died almost instantly.

PRICE WAS ENOUGH FOR KILLING SUCH A VICTIM.

"After the shootin'," went on Gannon, with no show of emotion, "I run down the steps, stickin' the gun in my pocket. I meets Spence over in Third Avenue and he hands me \$4 and says 'That's enough for killin' a ———.' I kept

the gun. That's all I got for killin' Larsen."

"Had you ever seen Larsen before?" asked Assistant District Attorney C. C. Nott.

"No; I never seen him before, but Spence told me what he looked like."

Spence was arrested that same night, but there was no evidence to connect him with the murder, although it was known he had called at the Larsen flat and had been ejected. He secured his release from the Tombs on a writ of habeas corpus, which the District Attorney's office did not oppose because at that time it could not secure his indictment.

Later Gannon was arrested. During the trial of Police Lieutenant Becker the sophisticated child appeared as a witness for the defense, trying to offset conversations overheard in the Tombs between Becker and some of his strong arm squad. His testimony was impeached by the State.

Gannon will be sentenced next month. Because he has served a long term in the Elmira Reformatory for a burglary he cannot receive an indeterminate sentence. He must receive a twenty-year "bid."

The State will not accept a plea from Spence. It demands that this man of thirty-five years, who is charged with inciting a boy to murder, must go to the chair.

Tramps Blamed for Fire.

Tramps are thought to have set fire to an unoccupied stable at One Hundred and Sixty-ninth street and Nelson avenue early today. The building was owned by Thomas Ward and there was a considerable quantity of hay in the loft. The fire was visible for a long distance, being at a high point and a large crowd, many in automobiles, gathered to watch the firemen. The damage was about \$1,000.

DETECTIVE SHOT IN STRIKE RIOT NEAR FORT LEE

Two Hundred Italian Coal
Handlers Fight Police at
Erie Railroad Dock.

Thomas Farrington, an Erie Railroad detective, was shot and probably fatally wounded early today when a sudden riot started among the 200 striking Italian coal handlers at the Susquehanna and Western Railroad coal docks at Shadyide, the railroad terminal on the Jersey shore, opposite Ninety-sixth street, Manhattan. Michael Miah, a laborer, was hit on the head with a club and was hurried with the wounded detective on a special train to the Hackensack Hospital.

The strike of the coal handlers upon the refusal of their demands for an increase of pay from 22 to 25 cents an hour began at 7 o'clock this morning. The men refused to go to work and gathered outside the coal docks in a threatening crowd. The Erie Railroad, owner of the Susquehanna and Western, fearing trouble, had sent several detectives from Jersey City and West-haven to the scene of the threatened disorder.

It was when the detectives, assisted by a few loyal employees, charged the crowd in front of the gates in an effort to disperse it that a shot was fired and Farrington fell. At the same moment Miah was felled by the blow

of a club. The detectives made no effort to pursue the strikers further but, picking up the two wounded men, retreated to within the gates. There it was found that the detective was badly wounded. The bullet had entered the left ear and, ranging downward, had lodged against the spine. Farrington is partially paralyzed.

A special engine attached to a coach took Farrington and Miah at top speed to Hackensack, to the nearest available hospital. There surgeons probed immediately for the bullet in the detective's neck and brought it out, but the wounded man was in such a weakened condition that they feared he would die. Miah suffered nothing more serious than a split scalp.

Meanwhile the railroad company had sent an urgent telephone call to Sheriff Conklin at Hackensack, within whose bailiwick Shadyide is, and deputies were sent to the scene of the trouble. The coal docks were closed temporarily.

Police Honor Vincent Astor.

Vincent Astor was elected last night an honorary member of the Legion of Honor of the Police Department, to take the place of his father, Col. Astor. He was proposed by Sergeant Daniel Fogarty of the East Fifty-first street station at the regular monthly meeting at Police Headquarters, and was unanimously elected. There are but four other honorary members—Philip Rhine-jander, R. A. C. Smith, the Rev. Francis P. Sullivan and Police Commissioner Waldo.

LA FARGE MYSTERY REVIVED IN FRANCE AFTER 72 YEARS

Noted Men Join to Have Court
Reopen Case of Woman
Convicted of Poisoning.

PARIS, Dec. 10.—Although the prisoner was pardoned and has been dead many years, an effort to obtain a revision of the trial of Mme. Lafarge, in her time a young and beautiful society woman, who was sentenced to imprisonment for life in 1840 for the murder of her husband by poisoning him with arsenic, is to be made by a powerful committee of scientific men, writers and politicians, which has just been formed. The case against Madame Lafarge

was very similar to that of Mrs. Maybrick. It caused a great sensation at the time. The conviction was due principally to the evidence of the great chemist Mathieu Orfila, who swore to the presence of arsenic in the dead man's body. Another leading scientist of the period, Francois Raspail, hastened to Tulle, where the trial took place, in order to declare to the jury that Orfila's evidence was insufficient as arsenic was present in all bodies, but he arrived too late.

Raspail's contention is supported to some extent by later experiments carried out by Armand Gautier and Prof. Gabriel Bertrand has just concluded a series of studies showing incontrovertibly that arsenic exists in a general way in every living organism and further that the methods hitherto employed to test the presence of arsenic in bodies had had the effect of introducing arsenic into those bodies.

Mme. Lafarge died in 1855, two years after she had been pardoned by Napoleon III.

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